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**"THE BILL IN BRIEF"**  
**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE**  
**CANADIAN MULTICULTURALISM BILL**

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

DECEMBER 1, 1987

Canada





Department of the Secretary  
of State of Canada

Secrétariat d'État  
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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BILL

- Contains a preamble reiterating the commitment in the Constitution of Canada to preserve and enhance the multicultural heritage of Canadians, to guarantee equality for all as set forth in the Constitution, and to provide for the equal status of all Canadians, whether by birth or by choice.
- Sets forth in legislation a Multiculturalism Policy for Canada which reflects the cultural and racial diversity of Canadian society.
- Provides for a cross-governmental commitment to implement the Multiculturalism Policy within all federal institutions.
- Assigns to the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism a special coordinating responsibility for the implementation of the Multiculturalism Policy.
- Provides for the tabling of an annual report to Parliament for review by the Standing Committee on Multiculturalism.
- Provides a legislative base for the Canadian Multiculturalism Council to advise the Minister.
- Promotes the understanding that multiculturalism is a basic element of the Canadian heritage and identity and that it provides an invaluable resource in the shaping of Canada's future.
- Advances multiculturalism throughout Canada in harmony with the national commitment to the official languages of Canada.

- Promotes policies, programs and practices that enhance the understanding of and respect for the diversity of Canadian society.
- Encourages and assists individuals, organizations and institutions to project the multicultural reality of Canada in their activities at home and abroad.
- Promotes the preservation and enhancement of heritage cultures.
- Assists racial minority communities in overcoming discriminatory barriers.

The Act is structured as follows:

Preamble - sets out the socio-legal context of the Act.

Interpretation (Section 2) - identifies federal institutions affected by the policy.

The Multiculturalism Policy of Canada (Section 3) - describes the policy commitments for Canadian society and federal institutions.

Coordination (Section 4) - Sections 4 through 7 describe the implementation of the Multiculturalism Policy of Canada.

Specific Mandate of Minister (Section 5)

Responsibilities of Other Ministers (Section 6)

Advisory Council (Section 7)

Annual Report (Section 9)

Permanent Review by a Parliamentary Committee (Section 10).



